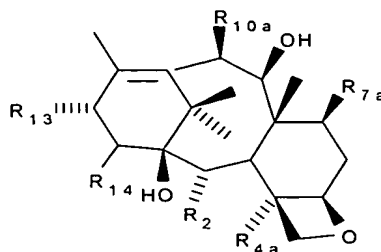


We claim:

1. A tetracyclic taxane having the formula



wherein

- $R_2$  is hydrogen, hydroxy, or  $-\text{OCOR}_{31}$ ;  
 $R_{4a}$  is hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyano, hydroxy, or  $-\text{OCOR}_{30}$ ;  
 $R_{7a}$  is hydrogen, halogen or  $-\text{OR}_{28}$ ;  
 $R_{10a}$  is hydrogen,  $-\text{OCOR}_{29}$ , hydroxy or protected hydroxy;  
 $R_{13}$  is hydroxy or protected hydroxy;  
 $R_{14}$  is hydrogen;  
 $R_{28}$  is hydrogen, acyl, or hydroxy protecting group; and  
 $R_{29}$ ,  $R_{30}$  and  $R_{31}$  are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, monocyclic aryl or monocyclic heteroaryl.

2. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein  $R_2$  is benzoyloxy;  $R_{4a}$  is acetoxy;  $R_{7a}$  is  $-\text{OR}_{28}$ ; and  $R_{28}$  is as defined in claim 1.

3. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{10a}$  is a protected hydroxy;  $R_{28}$  is hydrogen or hydroxy protecting group; and  $R_{31}$  is alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl.

4. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{10a}$  is  $-\text{OCOR}_{29}$ ; and  $R_{29}$  is as defined in claim 1.

5. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{28}$  is hydrogen.

6. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 2 wherein  $R_{28}$  is a hydroxy protecting group.

7. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 10-deacetyl-9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).

8. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7,10-bis-O-triethylsilyl-10-deacetyl-9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).

9. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).

10. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7-O-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo baccatin (III).

11. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7-O-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -hydroxy-9-deoxo-13-O-trimethylsilyl baccatin (III).

12. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7-O-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -acetoxy-9-deoxo-10-deacetyl-13-O-trimethylsilyl baccatin (III).

13. The tetracyclic taxane of claim 1 wherein the taxane is 7,10-bis-O-triethylsilyl-9 $\beta$ -acetoxy-9-deoxo-10-deacetyl-13-O-trimethylsilyl baccatin (III).